

Appl. No. 09/918,844
Amend. Dated August 11, 2004
Reply to Advisory action of July 29, 2004

Remarks

Claims 20-27 are pending in this application.

The examiner's July 29, 2004 advisory action indicates that the amendments made in the last after-final amendment did not place the application in condition for allowance considering U.S. Patent No. 4,902,423 issued to Bacino.

In the Advisory Action, the examiner included a labeled copy of Bacino FIG. 2. The copy shows that the short fibrils of Bacino occur in a linear-transverse arrangement. The applicant still believes that the components disclosed at Ref. No. 3 in Bacino FIG. 2 are not individual nodes, but are instead aggregations. Further, we still believe Bacino shows nodes within each aggregation that are not expanded. In the interest of expediting this matter, however, limitations have been added to distinguish the claims from the examiner's interpretation of Bacino.

Therefore, we submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Marshall Honeyman
Reg. No. 48,114

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
2555 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2613
816/474-6550

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT REQUIRED,
OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO ACCOUNT NO.
19-2112. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET
IS ENCLOSED.

Page 4 of 4

1483434v1